

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1 to 9, 11, and 13-15 are pending in the present application, with claims 10 and 12 having been canceled in this Amendment, and claims 16-18 having been previously withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1, 11 and 13 have been amended. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II Rejection of Claims 1 to 11 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 to 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,300,672 ("Fisher"). In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12, as well as incorporating the limitations of intervening claim 10. Claims 10 and 12 have been canceled, and claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-9, 11 and 15 are in allowable condition.

III. Rejection of Claim 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fisher in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,870,319 ("Benedikt et al."). As mentioned above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12, as well as incorporating the limitations of intervening claim 10. Since claim 14 depends from claim 1 which is now in allowable condition, claim 14 is also in allowable condition.

IV Claim 13

Claim 13, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been amended to depend from amended claim 1 which is now in allowable condition. Accordingly, claim 13 is now in allowable condition.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-9, 11 and 13-15 are in allowable condition.

Respectfully submitted,
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